

"Making A King!"

Text: Ephesians 5:28-33

"Then so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." This is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the church; however let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

Last week, those of you who were here, will recall that we talked about wives and mothers, and we said ~~now~~ this week we would be dealing with husbands and fathers. I took a rather critical look at the great American institution known as motherhood, and this morning I would like ~~to look just as critical~~ ^{THE} to look just as critically at ^{the} Male counterpart of this institution known as Fatherhood. Although the image of the male as a father and parent has not become as blown out of proportion as that of the female as a mother, it is still rather disturbing to any male or any father when we contemplate the image created for us.

Paul had some very distinct things to say to the men of Ephesus, which we read as our scripture for this morning. Probably one of the first things you ladies heard in that scripture was that Paul ~~was~~ advocated the obedience of wives to their husbands. Although this may rankle some of you, and perhaps cause you to feel that you are being put down, you must understand the age and the time in which it was written. Women in the days of Paul were of little value. They were in most instances only fit to do the work that needed to be done, and to bear children. Other than that, they held no station in life.

But Paul was addressing himself to women who were Christians. Jesus placed a new standard on the role of women in society. He taught against a man divorcing his wife on the whim that she no longer pleased him. He spoke against anyone enslaving anyone else, and thus Jesus advanced the cause for women's liberation. So when Paul is telling the women to be obedient to their husbands he is merely telling them, that they must be careful as to their conduct, because the idea of a woman being of value and

worth, needed to be nurtured and worked at. So he was perhaps really saying, "Cool it ladies, until you are in a better position to assert yourselves."

But what Paul really points out is that men should begin to love their wives as they love their own bodies. Now this puts a different light on the subject, because as he also points out, "No one hates his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it." Isn't this true? If we cut our finger, do we not disinfect it and bandage it? If we tire ourselves out physically or mentally, we rest up so we may be able to perform our functions once again. Thus we can see that we take care of our bodies. By this we also show a love for our own flesh. So if we apply this to our relationship with our wives, we see then that we are to love them, as we love ourselves. But Paul also brings in a portion of the creation story, where we are told a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one. Paul likens this union to the union of Christ with his church. Which would be a perfect union, and we know that there are no perfect unions in humanity. Only Christ and the church are perfect unions, and really what Paul is setting before us is a standard toward which we are to strive.

I am sure that almost all of us have heard at one time or another the saying, "A man's home is his castle." To which we could ask, "Who lives in castles?" Royalty and royal families. right? How many of you ladies have ever felt that your husband was a king? Perhaps we should ask, "how many of you have crowned your husbands,?", but maybe we better not ask that to avoid embarrassment. But if we accept the statement that a man's home is his castle, then we are talking about the making of kings. Each man in his own right then is the ruler of his own little domain. But does it actually work that way? I do not believe that it does anymore. At one time almost all husbands and fathers were indeed the rulers of their households. What Father said, went. Oftentimes this authority was very much abused. But today just the reverse is true. Too often whatever Mom

says, goes. Many men have relinquished their right to use their rightful authority, just so they can sit in front of the TV undisturbed and let Mom do the chores, as well as the raising of the kids.

This is going against all that is normal and natural in the husband wife relationship. This does not mean that a man is to completely dominate the home and make everyone his slave, but it does mean that man should be just that, a man. I may be old fashioned, but I still believe that men have a certain role to play in life, and women have their role, and when women start acting and behaving as men, and men start acting and behaving as women, we have thrown everything out of kilter and we are going to reap the benefits in many ways. TELEPHONE ILLUS. (MALE OPERATOR)

Look at the statistics of divorce and separation, at the statistics of juvenile delinquency, at the statistics of frustrated men, women, and children, and the statistics of mixed up broken homes, and almost all of it can be traced to the breakdown of the American home.

Fathers, husbands, and men in general should be the stabilizing influence upon which our society functions. But alas, too often the male populace is so busy pursuing business or profession, the homefires must be kept burning, and glowing by the little woman, who waits patiently for the return of the breadwinner, and meantime is father, mother, nurse, housekeeper all rolled up into one. And gradually little by little the husband and father relinquishes all control in ~~the family~~ family matters until perhaps the kids ask, "Who is that strange man sitting in the living room Mommy?" Now this may be a little far fetched, but some homes are almost like this.

(Illustration of Joseph Goebbels being unloved in S.S.)

It is not only in the home that we need good Christian fathers and husbands, but in the Church, in the workaday world, and wherever the influence of good men should be felt. It is not always what we may say, but perhaps THE we live that speaks to others.

(Illustration of Robert McCheyne & his influence upon soemone)

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: ,
sing forth the honor of his name:
make His praise glorious.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER MAY 19, 1974
REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
GORDON KENNEDY, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN E FLAT" MOOREHEAD
"ANDANTE CON MOYO" JOHNSTON

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 39 "SAFELY THROUGH ANOTHER WEEK"
*ACCOLITON - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE HAVE
DONE LITTLE TO FORWARD THY KINGDOM IN THIS WORLD, TO
ESTABLISH THE BROTHERHOOD OF MEN, AND LOVE AS THE LAW
OF LIFE. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WHATSOEVER IS DONE
TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THY BRETHREN IS DONE UNTO THEE.
FORGIVE OUR SHORTCOMINGS; FORGIVE OUR PAST NEGLECT.
GIVE US A SIMPLE AND A SINGLE HEART INTENT ON PLEASING
THEE. HELP US IN ALL OUR SEEKING TO SEEK FIRST THY
KINGDOM AND THY RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT WE MAY BE BLESSED WITH
THE FULL MEASURE OF THY BLESSING. AND MAKE US TO COME,
AS CAME THY SON JESUS CHRIST, NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO,
BUT TO MINISTER. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: EPHESIANS 5: 15-33

HYMN No. 286 "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PAUSE AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "IN A QUIET GARDEN" SERGISSON
ANTHEM: "BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR" ARR. BY CHRISTIANSEN
SERMON: "MAKING A KING!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 282 "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS!"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRETTO MAESTOSO" WILSON

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
DONN E. MILLER IN MEMORY OF "MOTHER" DOROTHY KALB
MILLER.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY: *CHARLES FENAR, DARYL TAIT,
GARY FENAR, DON KINGSLEY.

DEACON AND MRS. HARRY FRY WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT
THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET COVERT
AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. HERMAN LIPPOLD, MRS. MARY YOUNG,
AND REV. GRANVILLE COOPER.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 233.

MR. WILLIAM DUTTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION
FOR ALL THE CARDS AND PRAYERS AS HE IS CONVALESCING.
OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE WIFE AND FRIENDS OF CARL
MILLER WHO PASSED AWAY LAST SUNDAY.

COMING SOON! - THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP WILL SPONSOR
A GARAGE SALE AT THE REAR OF 303 WALKER AVE. ITEMS
ARE NEEDED FOR THE SALE. ANY LARGE ITEMS WILL BE
PICKED UP BY CALLING THE ROBERT KNAUER'S OR DON
KENNEDY'S. THE SALE WILL BE MAY 31 AND JUNE 1ST.
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR RESERVATION IN THE CHURCH
SCHOOL WORKERS RECOGNITION DINNER ON MAY 29 - PLEASE
DO SO.

REMEMBER - BEAT RECYCLING CENTER, SATURDAY MAY 25TH,
NEBLEY AVE. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT LIZ ARMSTRONG
287-2486.

NEXT SUNDAY WE WILL PUBLISH NAMES OF THOSE GRADUATING
FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BUSINESS SCHOOL AND COLLEGE -
PLEASE - IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO - CONTACT BEA TAIT
IN THE OFFICE OR AT HOME.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CAMPING? HAVE YOU GOTTEN REGISTR.
SCHEDULE FROM THE OFFICE. THE CHURCH WILL PAY REGISTR.

Is this true?
 cut finger, do we not bandage disinfect etc.
 if we tire self mental, physically, do we not rest
 thus take care body.
 (this show love for own flesh
 if apply this to wife relationship, we to love them
 as we self.
 P also bring in creation story, man leave father,
 mother joined to wife & two become one.
 P liken this to Xp & church, which perfect union.
 there no perfect union in humanity,
 only Xp & church perfect union,
 But this standard toward which we strive
 Almost all heard, "A man's home is his castle"
 To which we ask "Who live in castle?"
 Royalty & royal families, right?
 How many ladies felt or feel husband king?
 Perhaps ask, "How many crowned husband, but better
 not ask, may cause embarrassment?"
 If accept above statement, then we talk Making A King
 Each man in own right ruler little domain
 But does actually work that way?
 I do not believe too much anymore
 At one time almost all fathers/husbands rulers own
 household.
 What Dad said, went.
 Today just reverse true,
 too often what Mom says, goes.
 Many men relinquished rt to use their rightsul auth.
 Caused by wanting no part raise family, let Mom do it
 This against all normal, natural in husband/wife
 relationship.
 Doesn't mean hus, must dominate home, make everyone
 slave
 Does mean man should be just that, A MAN
 I maybe old fashioned, but still believe man has
 certain role, woman has certain role.
 When women start act man, man start acting woman,
 all out of kilter & we reap harvest according.
 (male telephone operators good example)
 Look stats divorce, separation,
 " " frustrated men, women, children
 " " mixed up broken homes,
 Almost all can be traced breakdown Am. home
 Fathers, husbands, men in gen should be stabilizing
 fluence upon which society functions
 But alas, too often male populace too busy pur-
 sue business, profession, or pleasure.

"Making A King!"

Ty : Ephesians 5:28-33

"Even so husbands should love their wives as their
 own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
 For no man ever hate his own flesh, but nourishes and
 cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we
 are members of his body. For this reason a man shall
 leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife
 and the two shall become one." This is a great my-
 story, and I take it to mean ~~that~~ Christ and
 the church; however, let each one of you love his
 wife as himself, and let the wife see that she re-
 spects her husband."

Last wk those here, recal talked wives, mothers,
 said this wk deal fathers, husbands.
 looked critically Am. inst. motherhood,
 this morn look equal critically male counterpart
 inst. known fatherhood.

Altho image male as Father & parent not blown out
 proportion as female, mother,
 still disturb any male, father when contemplate image

Paul had some distinct things say men of Ephesus
 this scrip for morn

Prob 1st things ladies heard P advocate obed to hus
 May rankle some you, perhaps cause felt put down.
 But must understand time written.

Women in day of P of little value
 of v fit work, bear children
 Otherwise, no station in life.

But P address women were Xpian.

Js placed new standard role women in society
 "taught against divorce woman no longer please men
 " " enslaving anyone, thus advanced women's
 lib.

P tell women be careful in conduct, because women
 being of value & worth needed nurturing & working
 He perhaps really saying, "Cool it ladies, at
 until you in better position to assert self."
 But what I really point out, men begin love wife as
 he love own body.

(w this put diff lite on subject.

He also point out, "No one hates his own flesh,
 but nourishes it and cherishes it."

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.